

## **Andrew Jackson to Amos Kendall, April 16, 1840, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO POSTMASTER GENERAL KENDALL.

Hermitage, April 16, 1840.

Private

My dear Sir, Yours of the 4th March came duly to hand with its enclosures. I had no idea that the people applying for a Post Office in the memorial I sent you and in the maner applied for, but I thought it my duty at their request to forward it to you. that neighborhood both in Mississippi and Arkansas are much in want of some communication thro the Post Office, but the only way for them, if the emoluments will not procure a mail rider is to raise by subscription as much as will procure one. I have forwarded your enclosure to them.

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I have no idea that Major A. J. Donelson would be able to procure funds in the east, he has returned and has started to his plantation in the Mississippi. if the price of Cotton does not rise, it is not worth raising.

I have received an additional statement from Chief Justice Tauny on the subject of the falshoods in Duanes Book which I enclose to you by the same mail, that takes this [to] you, with a private letter from him, requesting that neither the former or this should be published in your Book. I have answered, that it is not intended, but only the parts, which if this statement should be controverted history, Maj. A. J. Donelson, could be referred to. This is all what Maj. A. J. Donelson informed me, you wanted.

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I was gratified with my visit to the lower country. I could not but be highly gratified with my reception, having undertaken the journey, I was determined to go through or fail in the struggle. I have long found that complaining never eased pain, I therefore put on a calm face, but my D&apos;r Sir, I supposed I was taken with Hemorrhage the morning before I reached Pittsburgh, and never got to bed until 11 Oclock at night. The only relief I had was common Salt, and the next day travelled to Jacksonville, 1 the Seat of Goverment and spent two nights and one day there, returned to Vicksburgh and took boat the next morning and struggled against pain and sickness for ten days and nights, still providence, as usual took care of me and I started home sinc which my health has been about the same as when I started on the Journy. I had this morning to be bled.

1 Now Jackson, Miss.

I see the opposition is as reckless as ever, observing every body and speaking against time, to prevent any thing to be done beneficially to the Country, their reign will be short, nothing can give them hope of success, but a split in the Republican ranks, about a vice President. the Whiggs are now urging the republicans here to put up Col. Johnson, in lew of Capt. Polk, this is done knowing that Col. Johnson cannot get a majority in this State, that it will weaken our cause and strengthen theirs.

A Gentleman from Pittsburgh informs me that Johnson will not carry with him the strength of Penn. by a fourth and that Polk is much stronger than him in Penn. We ought to be careful to place the strongest man with Van Buren, one that would add strength, not be a dead weight—and if Col. Johnson is selected by the Baltimore Convention he will be a dead weight upon us. Polk can carry Virginia, N.C., S.C. Ga. Ala. Mis. and Louisiana, and I believe Kentucky, with all the other Western states. Forsyth or Col. King, 2 would be stronger than Col. Johnson. Why then should we hazzard anything for men, when so much is at stake. Take the strongest say I, regardless of men. I esteem all the four men and would vote for either, but we must be united and adopt the Motto, "Everything for principle and nothing for men, and I am well informed, that in Ohio that Polk is the strongest of any

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that is presented and it was not mentioned that Johnson should be nominated. he got the vote

2 William R. King of Alabama, elected vice-president in 1852.

class=MsoNormal>0083 59 by one only, and might that not have been a motion [?] in our ranks to give the less popular man the selection. that this is the case I refer to Mr. Hemer, and it would be well that the Eastern members to the Balto. convention should understand this. Col. Johnson, cannot carry a strong vote in the South and West, and why it is so I cannot sa[y] or conjecture, but so it is and it would be suicidal to place him before the Union, when this dreadful battle is to be fought, and it will be fought with desperation by the Federal Whiggs, it is their dying struggle, and they must be met with energy and with the Motto "Every thing for principal, and nothing for men," if this is not adopted, believe me, the election of Mr. Van Buren will be put in jeopardy.

Since commencing this letter I have recevd. one from Maj. Eaton, 3 he is on his way home, will be in the U. S. by the first May. Will you go abroad. I was happy to hear from Major Donelson, that your health was better, but I still think a relaxation from your arduous duties would be condusive to your health.

3 Envoy to Spain 1836–1840. Aaron Vail, chargé, served there till 1842, when Washington Irving came as envoy.

My friend Maj. Eaton comes home not in good humor, he says he has been dismissed. Is it true that a Charge des Affairs is to go to Spain (this the Major says is stated to him by the Secy. of State) if this is so, then you will not go to Spain.

Your Ob. Svt.